

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **add** Claims 21-40 and **cancel** Claims 1-20 as indicated:

1-20. (cancelled)

21. (new) A method comprising:

receiving call data at a local network from a foreign telecommunications network, wherein the call data is from a source file having multiple source fields created in the foreign telecommunications network, and wherein the call data is for a call made by a user who is registered with the local telecommunications network but who made the call using the foreign telecommunications network;

validating the received call data by confirming that each source field in the received call data complies with a first user-defined format; and

in response to validating the received call data, selectively converting the received call data into a target file having multiple target fields using a second user-defined format that is specific for the local telecommunications network, wherein each target field conforms to the second user-defined format.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

validating the received call data by using the received call data as an input for a software program, wherein the received call data is validated only if the software program produces a validating result.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

populating a target field in the target file with the validating result.

24. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the second user-defined format is a sum of two or more of the source fields in the source file for the received call data.

25. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the second user-defined format for a field in the target file is a default value that is independent of a corresponding source field in the source file for the received call data.

26. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the first user-defined format has multiple validation rules, and wherein each of the multiple validation rules are sequentially applied to the call data, and wherein each of the source fields in the source file for the call data is validated only that source field complies with every applicable validation rule from the multiple validation rules.

27. (new) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

outputting an error message to the foreign telecommunications network if a source field in the source file fails a validation test.

28. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the target file is used exclusively for non-billing operations.

29. (new) A system comprising:

means for receiving call data at a local network from a foreign telecommunications network, wherein the call data is from a source file having multiple source fields created in the foreign telecommunications network, and wherein the call data is for a call made by a user who is registered with the local telecommunications network but who made the call using the foreign telecommunications network;

means for validating the received call data by confirming that each source field in the received call data complies with a first user-defined format; and

means for, in response to validating the received call data, selectively converting the received call data into a target file having multiple target fields using a second user-defined format that is specific for the local telecommunications network, wherein each target field conforms to the second user-defined format.

30. (new) The system of claim 29, further comprising:

validating the received call data by using the received call data as an input for a software program, wherein the received call data is validated only if the software program produces a validating result.

31. (new) The system of claim 30, further comprising:
means for populating a target field in the target file with the validating result.

32. (new) The system of claim 29, wherein the first user-defined format has multiple validation rules, and wherein each of the multiple validation rules are sequentially applied to the call data, and wherein each of the source fields in the source file for the call data is validated only that source field complies with every applicable validation rule from the multiple validation rules.

33. (new) A computer program product residing on a computer usable medium, the computer program product comprising:

computer program code for receiving call data at a local network from a foreign telecommunications network, wherein the call data is from a source file having multiple source fields created in the foreign telecommunications network, and wherein the call data is for a call made by a user who is registered with the local telecommunications network but who made the call using the foreign telecommunications network;

computer program code for validating the received call data by confirming that each source field in the received call data complies with a first user-defined format; and

computer program code for, in response to validating the received call data, selectively converting the received call data into a target file having multiple target fields using a second user-defined format that is specific for the local telecommunications network, wherein each target field conforms to the second user-defined format.

34. (new) The computer program product of claim 33, further comprising:

computer program code for validating the received call data by using the received call data as an input for a software program, wherein the received call data is validated only if the software program produces a validating result.

35. (new) The computer program product of claim 34, further comprising:
computer program code for populating a target field in the target file with the validating result.

36. (new) The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the second user-defined format is a sum of two or more of the source fields in the source file for the received call data.

37. (new) The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the second user-defined format for a field in the target file is a default value that is independent of a corresponding source field in the source file for the received call data.

38. (new) The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the first user-defined format has multiple validation rules, and wherein each of the multiple validation rules are sequentially applied to the call data, and wherein each of the source fields in the source file for the call data is validated only that source field complies with every applicable validation rule from the multiple validation rules.

39. (new) The computer program product of claim 38, further comprising:
computer program code for outputting an error message to the foreign telecommunications network if a source field in the source file fails a validation test.

40. (new) The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the target file is used exclusively for non-billing operations.